

# NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

## NEWS RELEASE

For more information contact Betty VanDeventer at 402.471.4537 or [betty.vandeventer@nebraska.gov](mailto:betty.vandeventer@nebraska.gov) July 11, 2011

### STATE ED BOARD INVITES PUBLIC TO COMMENT ON TEACHER, PRINCIPAL EFFECTIVENESS STANDARDS

Nebraska teacher and principal effectiveness standards will be the focus of seven forums held statewide beginning July 19 with the goal of gathering public comment on recently developed educator effectiveness guidelines for school districts.

The public may attend forums at the following sites:

- **Grand Island, July 19 at 11:30 a.m.:** Grand Island Public Schools, Challenge Center, Kneale Administration Building, 123 S. Webb Road.
- **Kearney, Aug. 3, 7 p.m.:** Kearney Public Schools, Reception Hall at the Merryman Performing Arts Center, 225 W. 22nd St.
- **Scottsbluff, Aug. 22, 7 p.m.:** Scottsbluff Public Schools, Scottsbluff High School, 313 E. 27th St.
- **Lexington, Aug. 23, 7 p.m.:** Lexington Public Schools, Lexington Middle School, 1100 N. Washington St.
- **Omaha, Aug. 25, 7 p.m.:** Educational Service Unit #3, 6949 S. 110th St.
- **Beatrice, Aug. 29, 7 p.m.:** Beatrice Public Schools, Beatrice High School, 600 Orange Blvd.
- **Lincoln, Aug. 30, 7 p.m.:** Lincoln Public Schools, Scott Middle School, 2200 Pine Lake Road.

In addition to forums, the public may review the teacher and principal effectiveness standards and participate in a survey seeking public comment at [www.education.ne.gov/StandardsSurvey](http://www.education.ne.gov/StandardsSurvey). The survey will be available through Sept. 2.

Informational meetings are also being held statewide for educators.

Educator effectiveness is critical to improving student performance. Federal programs, specifically Race to the Top, are increasingly emphasizing educator effectiveness standards and that has prompted many states to work toward the development of teacher and principal standards.

The State Board of Education in May approved a draft of the effectiveness standards and is expected to consider final approval this fall.

The standards were developed over several months by a 41-member committee representing 13 statewide educational groups. Nebraska Department of Education Curriculum Administrator Donlynn Rice and James Havelka, a former Nebraska school superintendent, have oversight of the development process and will conduct the forums and informational meetings.

Comments from the public will be summarized and considered by the State Board of Education.

The State Board of Education considers the teacher and principal effectiveness standards a resource and guide for local educators and policymakers as they work to improve student achievement, not as a mandate for local school districts. The standards could be used by local school districts to inform teacher and principal evaluations, mentoring and professional development as well as for other personnel functions.